India's deliberations at World Economic Forum, Davos

792. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with which deliberations took place with Indian delegation at the recently concluded World Economic Forum in Davos;

(b) the details of such deliberations; and

(c) the details of advantages accruing to India due to participation in the forum this year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos are not country specific. The Indian delegation participated in several meetings covering the subjects relating to Trade & Investment, Science & Technology, Education, Health, Tsunami, Corporate Social Responsibility etc. Bilateral meetings were also held with the European Union, UK, USA, Germany, Netherlands, Canada, Chile, Brazil, Korea, South Africa, Indonesia, Switzerland, Singapore and Malaysia among others in the wings of the World Economic Forum interactions.

(c) In these meetings and interactions there was clear appreciation of our economic reform measures as well as our institutional strengths and good economic indicators. Indian delegation informed about the favourable investment climate in the country which was appreciated by the participants in the various meetings.

R&D in defence sector

†793. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps Government propose to take to start/speed up development and research in defence sector; and

(b) the project-wise details of investment Government propose to make in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government is taking following major steps to speed up Research and Development work in defence sector:

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

— ensuring timely review and monitoring for financial and technical progress through multi-tier review mechanisms.

— encouraging joint funding by Services to ensure their commitment towards earliest completion.

— adopting technology evaluation and assessment prior to taking up fresh projects.

— promoting synergy and better co-ordination among user Services, DRDO and production agencies through cluster meetings.

— adopting 'concurrent engineering' and joint venture' approach for development and production.

(b) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has been allocated budget of Rs. 16,724.00 crore for project activities during the 10th plan period. This includes projects in the areas of missile systems, stragetic systems & technology, electronic warfare, military aircraft, armour & armaments, life support systems, avionics, early warning systems, RPVs etc.

Defence Research and Development Programmes

794. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is spending Rs. 10,000 crores on three ongoing Defence Research and Development Programmes which include the Light Combat Aircraft and an airborne early warning system; and

(b) if so, the details of three projects and their specialities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government is spending Rs. 9541 crore on the three major ongoing projects namely Tejas (LCA), electronic warfare (EW) systems for Army and Navy and on airborne early warning and control system. The details of these three projects are as under:

Project Name	Cost (Rs.) (crore)	Specialities
LCA	5489	Multirole light combat aircraft
EW Systems for Army and Navy	2252	Detection, analysis and jamming of enemy communications and of direction finding.
Airborne Early Warning and Control System	1800	Supporting offensive and defensive missions and air to air refueling.